L 21

SC
9/24

[redacted]

09/12/2007 02:04 PM
AST

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Tuolumne River Plan comments

Thanks for asking for comments on the proposed Tuolumne River Plan!

All four proposed options seem to do a good job of protecting Tuolumne from the over-development that characterizes Yosemite Valley. Congratulations to the planning team for producing well-thought-out options.

However, one single change that is not proposed in any of the options would do more for protecting the river than any other change:

I would like to strongly advocate for the closure of the High Sierra Camp at Glen Aulin, and all the other camps as well. The pack trains servicing these camps must be the largest single source of pollution along the river, at least away from the actual road/campground/store area (perhaps runoff from these areas exceeds the horse/mule impact). The pack trains pollute with horse dung, pulverize the trail surfaces, create new "lanes" of trails across meadows, destroy carefully constructed rock work along trails, and make the trails dusty and stinky (not to mention attracting flies!). The trail surface damage must surely produce substantial silt, dirt, and dung runoff into the river during thunderstorms or rainy periods. And while impacts from the camps themselves are contained in small areas, impact from trail surface damage is spread throughout the area, including long stretches along the river.

While I realize that the High Sierra Camps are historically significant, I think that the time has come to change them from full-service camps into historical displays and non-serviced picnic (and perhaps group camping) areas.

Thanks for requesting input, and I hope you will consider the possibility of closing the High Sierra Camps.

Greg Barnes
[redacted]
Bishop, CA 93515

L 21

SC
9/24

[redacted]

09/12/2007 02:04 PM
AST

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Tuolumne River Plan comments

Thanks for asking for comments on the proposed Tuolumne River Plan!

All four proposed options seem to do a good job of protecting Tuolumne from the over-development that characterizes Yosemite Valley. Congratulations to the planning team for producing well-thought-out options.

However, one single change that is not proposed in any of the options would do more for protecting the river than any other change:

I would like to strongly advocate for the closure of the High Sierra Camp at Glen Aulin, and all the other camps as well. The pack trains servicing these camps must be the largest single source of pollution along the river, at least away from the actual road/campground/store area (perhaps runoff from these areas exceeds the horse/mule impact). The pack trains pollute with horse dung, pulverize the trail surfaces, create new "lanes" of trails across meadows, destroy carefully constructed rock work along trails, and make the trails dusty and stinky (not to mention attracting flies!). The trail surface damage must surely produce substantial silt, dirt, and dung runoff into the river during thunderstorms or rainy periods. And while impacts from the camps themselves are contained in small areas, impact from trail surface damage is spread throughout the area, including long stretches along the river.

While I realize that the High Sierra Camps are historically significant, I think that the time has come to change them from full-service camps into historical displays and non-serviced picnic (and perhaps group camping) areas.

Thanks for requesting input, and I hope you will consider the possibility of closing the High Sierra Camps.

Greg Barnes
[redacted]
Bishop, CA 93515

L 22 9/28 SC

Your Comments Are Important!

Pages 28-35 of this workbook provide descriptions of the preliminary alternative concepts that are being considered for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan. Please provide feedback on the concepts by carefully separating this form from the workbook and writing your comments on it. After completing your comments, fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (thank you!) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email by answering the questions below and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or faxing your responses to 209/379-1294. To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.

1. Have we presented a full range of preliminary concepts from which to build alternatives in the Draft Tuolumne River Plan? Is there another concept that we have not considered? If so, please describe and/or color the zoning scheme onto the map provided on the other side of this form.

2. What do you like or dislike about each concept? How could these concepts be improved?

Concept 1
Don't turn Tuolumne Meadows into a wilderness. There are already vast areas of wilderness in the Park. This concept leaves out most people including ourselves.

Concept 2
This is the preferred concept. The Park is for people to enjoy while protecting the beauty and ecology of the area. Tuolumne Meadows is a centralized area to accommodate the visitors. The High Sierra Camps, including Glen Aulin, are a part of the Yosemite experience and should be maintained.

Concept 3
History can be preserved under Concept 2. We have strong traditional ties to Yosemite and Tuolumne Meadows but don't see a conflict between that and accommodating people.

Concept 4
There are vast areas available in the Park for research. There is no need to tie up Tuolumne Meadows for this purpose. We suggest developing some botanical study areas that all can utilize and enjoy.

3. What are the most important elements that you think should be part of a preferred alternative? Why?
Unfortunately, an increasing population will put more pressure on Yosemite, including Tuolumne Meadows. By concentrating accommodations and services in the immediate Tuolumne Meadows area and allowing them to improve, the pressure can be managed and the outlying areas can be protected.

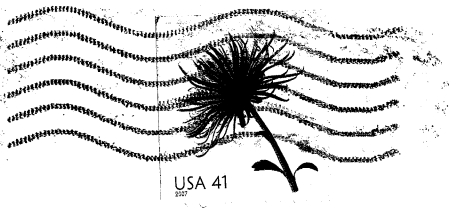
4. Do you have any comments on the management prescriptions/zones?
Use the Concept 2 zones. Consider extending the Base Camp designation on the north side to the Wild and Scenic River Boundary. There seems no reason for the complex boundaries shown and would seem hard to manage.

5. All Tuolumne Meadows Plan scoping comments received during summer 2006 are still being considered. If the information in this workbook has prompted new thoughts about how to plan for Tuolumne Meadows, please provide them here.
More off road, secluded parking; improve campground; limit number of meadow trails and harden; keep and encourage use of bus service; keep and improve current services including H.S. camps; develop botanical study area(s) for enjoyment of all; allow river access.

Bill and Joan Arsenault
[redacted]
Elkton, OR 97436
[redacted]

EUGENE OR 974

11 SEP 2007 PM 2 T



te Planning
al Park Service
: 577
ite, CA 95389-9905

>000

L23 9/24
SC

Yosemite Planning
National Park Service
PO Box 577
Yosemite, Ca 95389-9905

9/5/07

Dear Sirs,

I received the Tuolumne Planning Workbook and would like to offer the following comments for your consideration.

In general I strongly urge adoption of policies that implement the highest level of wilderness protection and limitation of development in the Tuolumne River and Meadows Plans.

Of the four alternatives presented, concept one comes closest to accomplishing my desired goal of reducing human generated impacts. There is one major exception.

In all four concepts the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp is allowed to continue current operations. I disagree with this. No where in any of the documents that I have read is there mention of the industrial scale operation that now exists in Tuolumne Meadows to support not only Glen Aulin, but the Sunrise and Vogelsang High Sierra Camps as well. From what I have observed, these commercial operations involve trucking in supplies and materials to the pack stations located in Tuolumne Meadows which are then transported to the Camps via hundreds or thousands of pack trains. These operations generate significant environmental impacts including air pollution, water pollution and siltation of tributary streams and the river from the excavated soils churned up by thousands of stock on the access trails to name a few. The visitor experience is greatly diminished by having to walk through clouds of dust and swatting away flies attracted to the stock droppings on the trails. I assume the difficulty and cost of maintaining the trails that access these camps is dramatically increased by the intense stock traffic. Of course this maintenance is paid for by the Park Service, subsidizing a private commercial operation that benefits a relatively few Park visitors.

I find this scale of commercial use at Tuolumne seriously jeopardizes the extraordinary values of the Tuolumne area that are enumerated in the workbook. Other options need to be developed that include reducing the level of use at the High Sierra Camps, developing different ways of using the facilities ie: client carries in his own supplies and moving the stables out of the Park.

The future EIS needs to fully analyze all impacts associated with the High Sierra Camps, commercial pack stock operations and other commercial uses at Tuolumne Meadows.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments and I look forward to participating in the future.

Jonathan Braun

Jonathan Braun
[redacted]
San Anselmo, CA
94979

L31

9/24

September 6, 2007

Yosemite Planning
National Park Service
P. O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389-9905

To Whom It May Concern:

The comments below respond timely to the four proposed preliminary concepts from which to build alternatives for the Draft Tuolumne River Plan.

We urge the Park Service to approve a Plan for continued protection of wilderness, as well as maximized opportunities for a wide variety of people to enjoy both day and overnight experiences at Tuolumne Meadows, Glen Aulin, May Lake, Sunrise, Merced Lake, Vogelsang and other parts of the High-Country Base Camp zone.

Our family has enjoyed Tuolumne Meadows and the surrounding areas for several generations. We are grateful that the current infrastructure, though deteriorating, still allows individuals of all ages and abilities in our family, including elderly, handicapped, and less physically adept, to come together to re-create and re-energize each year at this wonderful place. The current policy of benign neglect of existing infrastructure predicts eventual abandonment of the area as we know it now.

We strongly oppose Concept 1 which effectively eliminates meaningful use of Tuolumne Meadows and the surrounding high country for those who are elderly, handicapped, and otherwise less than very physically fit. Few amenities will restore the wilderness character, allowing an even more pristine environment, accessible *only* for an elite few.

We support Concepts 2 and 3 which seem to "maximize opportunities for diversity of day and overnight experiences", yet preserve and sustain wilderness values. We strongly support maintenance of the existing food and lodging services and its accompanying infrastructure.

Now that we are in our seventies, we treasure each year that we come together with our family at Tuolumne Meadows. We appreciate hiking the favorite trails with our grandchildren, both teens and toddlers. We cherish the joy on the face of our handicapped grandson when he sees once again the familiar granite peaks from his tent. When we were young we thought we'd always be able to climb the highest mountain and take care of ourselves. Now we deeply appreciate the existence of amenities which allow our continued presence.

We urge your choice of either concept 2 or 3.

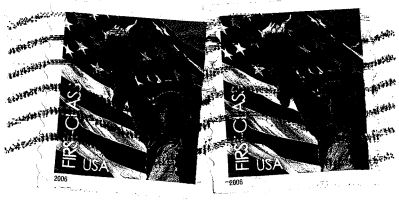
Sincerely

Marge and Terry Blaine

[redacted]

SAN FRANCISCO CA 941

07 SEP 2007 PM 6 L



osemite Planning
lational Park Service
. O. Box 577
osemite, CA 95389-9905

377

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

TO: Yosemite Planning

FROM: Jeff and Marilyn Hinck

SUBJECT: Tuolumne River/Tuolumne Meadows Plans

Having just picked up the Tuolumne Planning Workbook while camping at A LOOP during mid-August, I was disappointed to learn of proposed concepts, which would greatly reduce camping and access in the area.

STATEMENT: DO NOT CLOSE HISTORIC A LOOP TO CAMPING. THE WHOLE AREA SHOULD BE DESIGNATED HIGH COUNTRY BASECAMP.

- Tuolumne Meadows is only open a few months a year, because of road closure due to snowfall. In addition, in early summer the river is often so high that many areas of the riverbank are not accessible. Therefore, human impact is minimal.

- Horses, pack animals, and horse camps do the greatest damage to Yosemite Trails. Consider how much space is used over at the Pack Station to support those activities, and the impact of the animal wastes on the ecosystem.

- People coexist with animals around and in the river. I've seen osprey, deer, bear, coyote, redtail hawks and trout use the same A LOOP section of the river with the campground full and people in and around the river itself- even at low river levels.

- A LOOP is a historical area for camping. Our family has a long tradition of tent camping in Tuolumne Meadows. My wife's mother, uncle, grandparents, cousins, great aunts and uncles, and great-grandparents have camped there in A LOOP nearly every summer since the 1930's. Even during the war, they would save up the gas ration coupons to be able to drive there from San Diego. I have enclosed pictures.

- A LOOP is the most sought after camping area in The Meadows campground. A LOOP is mostly limited to tent camping, because of the size and topography of individual sites. This provides for a quieter, and more peaceful, simple camping experience for those like us, who want to tread lightly on nature and escape modern hustle and bustle. Other loops in the Meadows campground, with their RV's and generators, would not provide this experience.

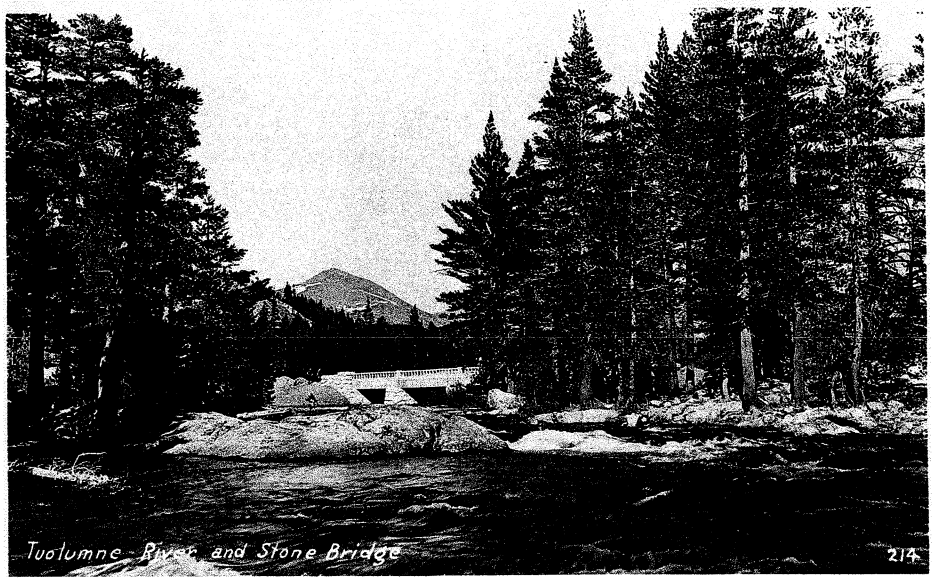
DO NOT CLOSE A LOOP TO CAMPING.

Sincerely,

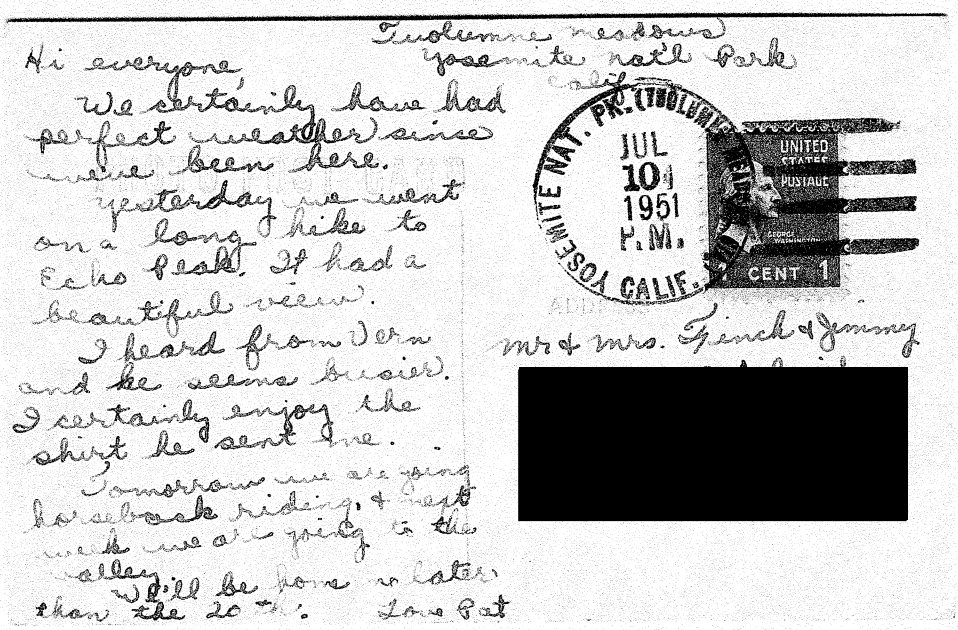
Jeff P. Hinck

Marilyn D. Hinck

Grace Alexander, my great grandmother cooking freshly caught trout in A Loop, circa 1940's.



Postcard written by my mother to my father in 1951.

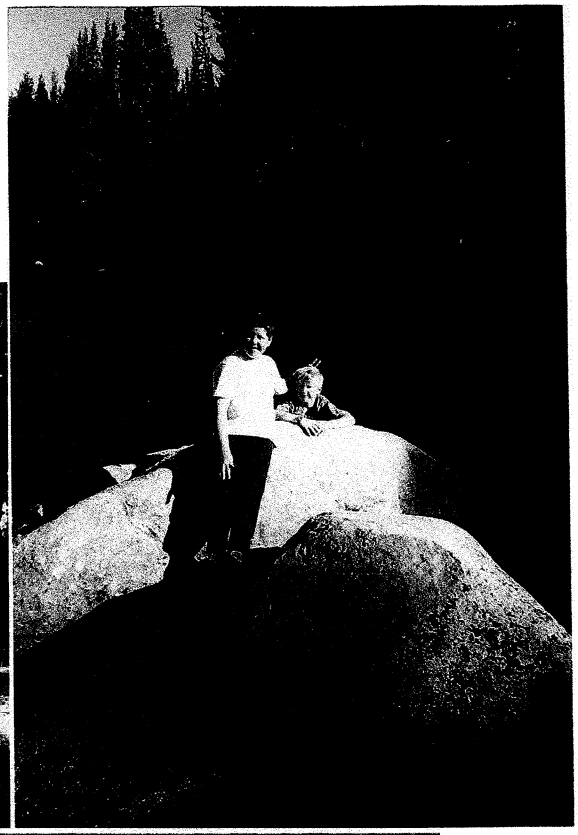


Tuolumne meadows
Yosemite Natl Park
Calif

Hi everyone
We certainly have had perfect weather since we've been here.
Yesterday we went on a long hike to Echo Peak. It had a beautiful view.
I heard from Vern and he seems busier. I certainly enjoy the shirt he sent me.
Tomorrow we are going horseback riding, & next week we are going to the valley. We'll be home no later than the 20th. Love Pat

YOSEMITE NAT. PK. (TUOLUMNE) CALIF.
JUL 10 1951 P.M.
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
CENT 1

Mr. & Mrs. Grench & Jimmy
[redacted]



Our own family's campsite in 1999, site 87 in A Loop.

SAN DIEGO CA 921

08 SEP 07 PM 4 T

Yosemite Planning
National Park Service
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389-9905

577

L 26
Sc 9/24

TUOLUMNE RIVER PLAN WORKBOOK COMMENTS

1. With the information that I have had so far, I think that the preliminary concepts for the River Plan are a good starting point. I know that much work has gone into developing these concepts. I would like to see another concept developed that could maybe blend concept #2 and #3. I have tried to think of a way to color in my own zone plan on the provided map, but I don't feel that I have enough knowledge of different historical sites or alternative places for parking lots, administrative facilities, utilities or services (if alternatives are needed).

2. *Concept 1*: I feel that this concept limits people a little too much from accessing some of the more central river areas in the Tuolumne area. I do not like that the lodging and food service would be removed as I believe that these accommodations and services afford people of many ages and abilities the opportunity to enjoy the area/river over more time than for just a day. Not everyone is a camper. I also dislike the removal of Loop A in the Campground. I personally have been camping there for 20 years and it is a part of my family history. It lets people get in touch with one of the most beautiful aspects of the area. Listening to the river at night is a source of great value for many people, I believe. Camping in the other loops is a completely different experience than in the A Loop. I really believe that sometimes a small part of something has to be sacrificed some in order to have people love it so much to want to protect the bigger picture. I like the continued use of the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp.

   Concept 2: I like that the type and level of services and amenities appears to stay much the same as now without increasing. I would like to know more about historical areas to decide if small areas could be included as historical in small pockets of the map were educational signs/information could be used. I like that hardened trails would be put in, but hope that the amount of them would be limited and hopefully in the form of a boardwalk as opposed to paved trails. I think only a small amount of this type of path is necessary in the main area (such as to Parson's Lodge or Soda Springs) in order to accommodate wheelchairs, but not necessarily bikes. I personally don't think bikes belong anywhere in the meadows or along the river in any concept. I like that continued use of the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp is included but would not want to see any new structures built for an increase of overnight usage. I would like to see this plan maybe include more of the preservation of vista management of the meadows. I saw no specific

mention of Loop A in the campground. I assume that it would remain intact, which I would like.

Concept 3: I am unclear about how far back into "history" in order to be considered "historic." For example, my family has a 30 year span of reference for "historic" to us; however, the history of human evidence of usage goes back 6000 years I believe. The historical usage is so different that I can't help but wonder which "historic character" would be used when redesigning sites. If "historic" means keeping things as close to the way they are now in Tuolumne Meadows area, then I like it. I would not like the store or grill to be redesigned as permanent structures though. I like that they are taken down every year. I would not think that building them as permanent structures, even if they were in a "rustic character" would necessarily enhance the area or make it feel more historic. I do like that campgrounds, lodging, food service and park operations would still be available in existing areas or moved in need be to resilient upland areas. I was unclear of the status in Loop A in this concept. I am assuming it would remain intact, which I would like. I would like to see that this concept provide for continued use of the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp as mentioned in concept #2. I am unclear how exactly Glen Aulin H.S.C. would be affected under this concept #3.

Concept 4: I like the opportunity for people to wander along the river as a serene area, but I don't like the reduction in campgrounds or food services. I dislike the fewer opportunities for universal access or day use. I think a reduction in these things as compared to what is available today is not acceptable. I don't like the removal loop A . I do like the continued use of Glen Aulin H.S.C. I like the idea of supporting scientific research, but I don't think it needs to go hand in hand with cutting back on day and overnight opportunities. I feel that this concept seems to support research and administrative activities more than the visitors' experience.

3. It is important to try to keep the same level of day and overnight services and amenities while trying to balance natural integrity of the river. I believe that people should have accessibility to this area to enjoy it and want to protect it and other natural areas. Accessibility should include limited boardwalk type hardened trails to accommodate various ages and abilities. I don't think; however, that bicycle trails should be included. I can't imagine seeing bikes riding along the river or meadow!

I think people can ride their bikes on the main road and walk into any other areas that they want to enjoy.

4. I would like more information of specific sites that would fall under "Historic Tuolumne." I am only aware of the specific location of Parsons Lodge and the Soda Springs Complex, but not of the many other cultural/historical sites. I think a map of the various locations would be helpful so that I could comment on how to include them in any particular concept, especially concept #2.

5. I would actually like to see another workbook come out for public opinion when there is a more clear idea of specific applications as to where parking lots, services, food, lodging and paved or non-paved trails might be. It is hard to comment on these concepts when I am unsure of how each one would really be applied to the area. I would hate to see paved trails put in throughout the meadows or all along the river. So much of how I would comment depends on to what extent each concept could/would be applied.

Thank you for all of the hard work you have all put into this very important plan. I truly appreciate you reaching out to the public for our opinions!

Sincerely,

Suzanne Lucas
Lake Forest, CA.
[redacted]

Your Comments Are Important!

Pages 28-35 of this workbook provide descriptions of the preliminary alternative concepts that are being considered for the *Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan*. Please provide feedback on the concepts by carefully separating this form from the workbook and writing your comments on it. After completing your comments, fold the form where indicated, tape shut the top and sides, add postage (thank you!) and place it in the mail. You can also submit comments by email by answering the questions below and sending them to yose_planning@nps.gov, or faxing your responses to 209/379-1294. **To be considered in the alternatives development process, comments should be received no later than September 15.**

1. Have we presented a full range of preliminary concepts from which to build alternatives in the Draft Tuolumne River Plan? Is there another concept that we have not considered? If so, please describe and/or color the zoning scheme onto the map provided on the other side of this form.

2. What do you like or dislike about each concept? How could these concepts be improved?

Concept 1 _____

_____

Concept 2 _____

_____

Concept 3 _____

_____

Concept 4 _____

_____

3. What are the most important elements that you think should be part of a preferred alternative? Why?

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. Do you have any comments on the management prescriptions/zones?

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. All Tuolumne Meadows Plan scoping comments received during summer 2006 are still being considered. If the information in this workbook has prompted new thoughts about how to plan for Tuolumne Meadows, please provide them here.

_____

_____

_____

L27

Bill West
[redacted]

To: yose_planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: draft scenic and wild tuolumne-2nd thoughts

09/17/2007 07:32 PM
MST

I sent the following comments last Saturday, and forgot to include my mailing address, if any other public documents are sent by land mail instead of email regarding this important issue.

Bill West
[redacted]
Inverness CA 94937-0422

done

Also, I would like to hazard a number, regarding how much money should be charged any livestock user for the privilege of taking their animals on the trails: at least $50 per animal per day, until the damage is fixed and improvements are in place, then maybe the fees could be reduced to $20 per animal/day to help maintain the trails.

This plan won't even come close to limiting development and protecting wilderness. Why?
There is a MAJOR glaring omission in this plan, if it is REALLY purports to be concerned with Tuolumne watershed wilderness protection.
As usual, these plan defects are directly concerned with not so subtle corruption by monied interests and the pandering to them by government agency's charged with responsible stewardship of these public trust lands.
I refer, of course, to the commercial livestock concessionaires, whose activities on public lands in general, and
in the trails that operate out of Tuolumne Meadows and in the Tuolumne River Watershed, that are so egregiously and blatantly subsidized by the general taxpayer.
All one has to do to observe the truth of the above assertion is walk the trail down to Glen Aulin, then walk further down to waterwheel falls, where horses and mules rarely go, or take ANY side trail, to see the awful condition of the trails where livestock traffic is the norm.
For another direct comparison of livestock impacted trails in the Tuolumne Watershed, with those used primarily by hikers only, I recently walked down from the Budd Lake and Cathedral Peak saddle, on the climber/hiker use path. It was
a lovely walk..... UNTIL I got to the John Muir Trail, and endured its terrible abuse and lack of maintenance by the commercial horse and mule traffic.
This trail abuse is ALL a consequence industrial scale horse and mule packtrain operation that now exists in Tuolumne Meadows, supporting not only Glen Aulin, but also the Sunrise, Voglsang and Tuolumne High Sierra Camps.
The trails to all these "high Sierra camps" have been HAMMERED and ROTOTILLED; there are in some places 3 foot deep ruts of livestock churned dust and manure. All these trails are, in effect, dry stream channels to direct this silt and pollution into the Tuolumne river and Hetch Hetchy.
All because the park service has been directed to wink and nod and fudge and evade

L28

and ignore the minuscule, COMPLETELY INADEQUATE use fees that the profit oriented livestock concessionaires are charged for the PRIVILEGE, of riding their pack animals and collecting the income their lazy clients pay to ride horses on the trails to Glen Aulin and other high sierra camps that have trails that drain into the Tuolumne River All this livestock use is in the PUBLIC TRUST parkland you, the Park Service are charged with stewarding.

This subsidy has to STOP, not today but yesterday, last year. a decade ago.

The livestock concessionaire that operates out of Tuolumne are nothing but economic, industrial "wilderness" parasites need to be required to pay, on a per animal per day basis, a fee that goes DIRECTLY to trail maintenance.

Back to the alternative plans, only concept one vaguely addresses any like the desired goal of reducing human generated impacts. But WHERE is there any mention of this most obvious and (missing in this plan) acknowledgment of livestock impact on wilderness protection? It is an inarguable FACT, that livestock concessionaires are the primary contributors to the erosion of the wilderness areas of the area concerned with these alternatives.

So…

Will you, the public trust stewards, DEAL with them, or shut them down. Will you let the wilderness be wilderness, to the extent you can?

You really can, you know.

Obviously, horses and mules can't be banned from the trails, but the rich sector of the public that chooses to impact their horses or mules on these public trust trails, either directly with their own animals, or indirectly by paying the concessionaires for their horse or mule, CAN be charged the fees that will allow the repairs, improvements and maintenance that will stop the horrific erosion that even the most casual wilderness traveler can observe after leaving a livestock use trail and taking a hiker use path, and observing the difference in impact between the 2.

ANY EIS, if it is to be taken seriously, needs to realistically analyze ANY AND ALL impacts associated with the High Sierra Camps, the commercial pack stock operations that service them, AND private livestock users that originate at Tuolumne Meadows.

I hope the issue I have raised in this message will actually generate some reasoned response from someone in the Park in general, and from the trail maintenance division in particular.

Yahoo! oneSearch: Finally, mobile search that gives answers, not web links.

L28
9/26

[redacted]
Portland, Oregon 97218-[redacted]
September 11, 2007

Yosemite Planning
ATTN: Tuolumne River Plan
PO Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

Dear Sir/Madam:

I would like to comment on the Tuolumne Planning Workbook. To qualify myself, I am a retired National Park Service ranger. I have hiked thousands of miles of high Sierra trails since 1956. I have hiked the John Muir Trail three times and given public talks on my hiking adventures. My family- my wife and three sons- has accompanied me on many, many trips!

If I were in charge of the "Wilderness" in Yosemite National Park, the first thing I would do is limit where stock animals are allowed. Every measure should be taken to protect the wilderness water quality, the invasion of non-native plants, and particularly the disagreeable encounters for backpackers.

I realize that big money talks and that your commercial stock packing and horseback riding businesses are all-powerful, but I predict the day will come when all stock will be banned from wilderness areas in California's National Parks before the population of California reaches 100 million. You "planners" need to look to the future, not the past!

If visitors want a wilderness experience, hike into it from trailheads, or backpack into it. If you want the luxury, ride your horses into a non-wilderness area- there are plenty of them available!

I have watched stock urinate and defecate in streams, in and nearby campsites, and of course all along the trails where my children, when they were young, stepped in it. Horse turds stink!

My recommendations:

All commercial stock packing and horseback riding should be eliminated in the Tuolumne Meadows, Tuolumne River corridor, and surrounding areas. That serves only a small percentage of visitors and at the same time destroys water quality, imports invasive plants, and destroys the experience of other visitors.

The High Sierra Camps at Glen Aulin, Tuolumne Meadows, and Vogelsang should be removed, period!

William H. Gardiner

William H. Gardiner [redacted]

L29
9/26 50

"gregory gilbertson"
[redacted]
09/10/2007 09:43 AM
MST

To: <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: HSHAhike@aol.com

Greetings,

I am writing to you to comment on the Tuolumne Planning Workbook. Although horses have been a part of the Sierra landscape for decades the sear numbers of these pack animals is having a far too serious impact on the park. One only has to look at the dust roads that were once foot paths to see the damage done by these animals.
The back country high sierra camps contribute greatly to the number of pack stock and should also be reconsidered. In such a fragile ecosystem with so many visitors one needs to limit the damage and limiting the numbers of pack stock using the trails is one sure way to deal with the problems that are now present.
Please consider having less pack animals in the area and reducing or reinventing the pressure caused by the high sierra camps.

Sincerely,

Gregory Gilbertson & Sheila Gallagher

L 30

9/26

"gregory gilbertson" [redacted]

09/12/2007 08:44 AM MST

To: <yose_planning@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Yosemite National Park Accepting Comments on Tuolumne River Workbook

In response to the Tuolumne Planning Workbook my comments are as follows. It has been my observation of large animal stock usage on public land is indeed harmful and irreparable. This is most evident along waterways and meadows where the soils are softer and erosion happens quickly. With increased usage the soil erosion and water pollution occurs swiftly with no plan to repair damaged areas. All to soon the streams become muddied and polluted from the animals and a pristine meadow becomes a smelly swamp, not a pleasant wilderness experience. In fact a preventative plan should be to ban pack animals from fragile areas such as Tuolumne Meadows and the closure of High Sierra Camps. I feel this would indeed be advantages to the majority of users to this area, being hikers who have little if any negative impact on the environment.

William Colman
[redacted]
Santa Cruz,Ca 95062